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10/11/11

Wiki Assignment #3:

Post your Statement of the Problem and Research Hypothesis

Statement of Problem

In today's society, the population of students in one classroom with one teacher is at an all time high. With overcrowded classrooms and only one teacher in the room, the ability for a teacher to individually help each student or a percentage the class is difficult. With states and districts having to create budget cuts in the education system, policy makers and researchers have begun to turn away from straight class-size reduction in favor of other methods to increase individual instruction time, such as restructured class formats, co-teaching, and distance learning (Education Week). With the problem of over crowding continuing to grow, may questions arise such as What are the solutions?, Does co-teaching help?, Are smaller class sizes better?

With overcrowded classrooms and over worked teachers, the outcome is not good for either end. Students are not receiving the education they deserve which causes teachers to be blamed but in turn teachers are feeling the effect with having to educate and guide a large number of students.

It has been said that "Class size is one of the small number of variables in American K-12 education that are both thought to influence student learning and are subject to legislative action. Legislative mandates on maximum class size have been very popular at the state level. In recent decades, at least 24 states have mandated or incentivized class-size reduction (CSR)." (Chingos & Whitehurst).

With many variables playing a part in academic success, such as the quality of the teacher, the home environment of the students, the quality of the curriculum, and the leadership of the school - it is difficult to draw definitive conclusions about student achievement based on class size alone. But with students spending a majority of their day in the classroom and with their teacher it can certainly be said that their academic success is affected by the classroom structure.

Research Hypothesis

Comparing the academic success of two Prekindergarten classrooms with different teacher to student ratio, one class of 2:21 and the other of 1:7, by examining their knowledge gained by distributing and grading a mock New York City Gifted and Talented exam after a three month period.

Sources

Chingos, M, & Whitehurst, G. (2011, May 5). Class size: what research says and what it means for state policy. . Retrieved from http://www.brookings.edu/papers/ 2011/0511\_class\_size\_whitehurst\_chingos.aspx

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